

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GENEVA 05841 021806Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-03 OMB-01 EB-11 CU-04 OIC-04

STR-08 COME-00 ACDA-19 MC-02 DODE-00 DRC-01 /188 W

----- 016994

R 021745Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2383

INFO ALL CSCE CAPITALS 55

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 5841

VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL MBFR

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: CSCE: SOVIET STATEMENT ON CBMS

REF: GENEVA 5579

1. AT NOVEMBER 2 MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON CBMS, SOVIET
AMB. MENDELEVITCH PROVIDED FURTHER DETAILS OF SOVIET
POSITION ON QUESTION OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS IN
REACTION TO COMMENTS MADE BY NEUTRALS AND NATO DELS ON
HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT (REFTEL). HE REITERATED VIEW THAT
PRIOR NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE GIVEN ONLY OF THOSE MANEUVERS
HELD IN SENSITIVE OR FRONTER AREAS AND ARGUED THAT NO
VALID OR SUBSTANTIAL ARGUMENTS HAD ACTUALLY BEEN ADVANCED
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GENEVA 05841 021806Z

AGAINST THIS POSITION. HE ACK OWLEDGED THAT SOME SMALLER

STATES HAD ARGUED THAT THIS CRITERION WOULD BE DISCRIMINATORY SINCE THEY WOULD BE OBLIGED TO NOTIFY NEARLY ALL MANEUVERS HELD ON THEIR TERRITORIES. MENDELEVITCH COUNTERED WITH ARGUMENT THAT A REQUIREMENT TO NOTIFY MANEUVERS IRRESPECTIVE OF LOCATION WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST LARGE COUNTRIES SINCE THEY WOULD HAVE TO NOTIFY MORE MANEUVERS THROUGHOUT A MUCH LARGER AREA OF THEIR TERRITORIES. HIS SUGGESTED SOLUTION WAS TO STIPULATE A FRONTIER ZONE OR BELT, WHICH WOULD BE OF THE SAME WIDTH FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS, BUT WHICH WOULD ALLOW SMALL COUNTRIES SOME AREAS IN WHICH THEY COULD HOLD MANEUVERS FOR WHICH NO NOTICE WOULD BE REQUIRED.

2. MENDELEVITCH NOTED THAT SOME DELS FELT THAT LIMITING NOTIFICATION TO FRONTIER ZONE MANEUVERS WAS UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE THE MOBILITY OF MODERN ARMED FORCES MADE IT POSSIBLE EVEN FOR THOSE MANEUVERS HELD IN AREAS REMOTE FROM FRONTIERS TO CAUSE UNCERTAINTY AND TENSION. MENDELEVITCH CHALLENGED THIS VIEW, ARGUING THAT AN OFFENSIVE (SURPRISE ATTACK) COULD NOT BE MOUNTED FROM THE INTERIOR OF A COUNTRY BUT WOULD REQUIRE GREAT CONCENTRATION OF FORCES IN FRONTIER AREAS.

3. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF THE SIZE OF THE MANEUVER FOR WHICH PRIOR NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE GIVEN, MENDELEVITCH EXPLAINED THAT SOVIETS USE THREE BASIC FORCE-LEVEL DEFINITIONS: TACTICAL (UP TO AND INCLUDING ONE DIVISION), OPERATIONAL (SEVERAL DIVISIONS) AND STRATEGIC (VERY LARGE FORCE UNITS CAPABLE OF STRATEGIC, WAR-WINNING OBJECTIVES). HE SAID SOVIETS CONSIDERED THAT MANEUVERS AT OPERATIONAL LEVEL AND ABOVE SHOULD BE NOTIFIED. THEY THOUGHT A MANEUVER OF DIVISION STRENGTH COULD NOT REALLY GIVE RISE TO AMBIGUITY OR TENSION EVEN IN A FRONTIER ZONE SINCE IT COULD NOT ACHIEVE A STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE. MENDELEVITCH ADDED THAT HIS OPERATIONAL (MULTI-DIVISIONAL) LEVEL SHOULD BE THRESHOLD FOR NOTIFICATION WHETHER MANEUVER WAS NATIONAL OR MULTINATIONAL. ACCORDING TO THIS CRITERION, HE EXPECTED THAT NEARLY ALL MULTINATIONAL BUT ONLY SOME NATIONAL MANEUVERS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PRIOR NOTIFICATION.

4. WITH REGARD TO THE MODALITIES OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION, MENDELEVITCH SAID THAT IN CASE OF NATIONAL MANEUVERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GENEVA 05841 021806Z

NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES NEAR WHOSE FRONTIERS THE MANEUVER TAKES PLACE. IN CASE OF MULTINATIONAL MANEUVERS, NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALL CSCE PARTICIPANTS AND THIS SHOULD PROBABLY BE DONE BY THE COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES ON WHOSE TERRITORIES THE MANEUVERS WERE TAKING PLACE. HE THOUGHT BILATERAL, DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS SHOULD BE USED IN NOTIFYING NATIONAL MANEUVERS BUT THAT IN CASE OF MULTI-NATIONAL MANEUVERS THERE MIGHT ALSO BE SOME

CENTRALIZED SYSTEM POSSIBLY UTILIZING A FOLLOW-ON BODY SET
UP BY THE CSCE.

5. MENDELEVITCH'S STATEMENT WAS DUTIFULLY SUPPORTED
BY THE GDR, HUNGARIAN AND BULGARIAN DELEGATIONS. ITALIANS
AND BELGIANS STRESSED INTERDEPENDENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONS AND
NEED FOR CBMS THAT WOULD GENUINELY BUILD CONFIDENCE AND,
IN THE CASE OF PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS,
NOT BE HELD WITHIN THE NARROW CONFINES OF THE LIMITS SET
FORTH BY THE SOVIETS. NETHERLANDS REP COMMENTED VERY SOURLY
IN SUB-COMMITTEE THAT MENDELEVITCH'S STATEMENT HAD
STRENGTHENED HIS FEELING THAT SUB-COMMITTEE'S WORK WAS VERY
DISAPPOINTING AND THAT EAST/WEST POSITIONS ARE FARTHER APART THAN EVER.

BASSIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973GENEVA05841
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731159/aaaabrj.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GENEVA 5579
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Oct-2001 by eisnerah>; APPROVED <05-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSCE: SOVIET STATEMENT ON CBMS
TAGS: PFOR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005